

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 22, and 43 have been amended. Claims 2, 23, and 44 have been canceled. New Claims 64-66 have been added. Claims 1, 3-22, 24-43, and 45-66 are currently pending in the application.

CLAIMS 1-16, 22-37, AND 43-58

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-16, 22-37, and 43-58 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Elgamal et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,389,534 B1). Claims 1, 22, and 43 have been amended to more distinctly claim the invention.

With regard to Claim 1, there is recited a method performed by a framework in a system comprising the framework and at least one application; that method comprising:

receiving a request from the application for a customized implementation of a service;
determining a set of zero or more restrictions to be imposed upon said customized implementation;
dynamically constructing said customized implementation, said customized implementation incorporating said restrictions, and comprising enforcement logic for enforcing said restrictions; and
providing said customized implementation to the application;
wherein said customized implementation is invocable by the application without further interaction with the framework.

(emphasis added).

The method of Claim 1 is quite advantageous because it allows an application to obtain access to services without repeatedly requesting those services from some centralized framework.

Specifically, when an application needs to access a particular service, it makes a request to a centralized framework for a customized implementation of that service. In response, the centralized framework dynamically constructs the customized

implementation. The customized implementation includes enforcement logic for enforcing certain restrictions on the service. The centralized framework then provides the customized implementation to the requesting application. Notice that it is an invocable implementation of the service that is returned to the application, not a result of an operation. Because this is the case, the application can, in the future, obtain the service by invoking the customized implementation directly. The application does not need to interact with the framework again to obtain the service. By removing the framework from the service request/provision process, the method of claim 1 removes the centralized framework as a potential performance bottleneck. This and other benefits can be derived from the method of Claim 1.

ELGAMAL

Elgamal does not disclose or suggest such a method. Instead, Elgamal discloses one of application programs 101-103 calling one of service modules 104-107, and one of service modules 104-107, in turn, calling one of policy filters 108-111 that has been configured by a policy filter initialization module 112. Based on the determination of the policy filter, the service module returns to the application either an error (if the operation is not allowed) or a result of the operation requested by the application program (see col. 5, line 41-42, and also col. 6, lines 42-43).

An important point to note regarding Elgamal is that, unlike the method of Claim 1, the application of Elgamal **does not request a customized implementation of a service**. Instead, the application requests just the operation (or service) itself. Because the application requests just an operation or service, the centralized framework of Elgamal (e.g., the APIs, protocols, and services, and policy filters shown in FIG. 1 of

Elgamal) returns just an error or a result. Unlike the method of claim 1, the framework of Elgamal does not provide to the application a customized implementation that can be invoked. Because the framework does not return a customized implementation that can be invoked, it follows then that every time the application wishes to request the operation or service, it must go through the centralized framework. This can create a performance bottleneck at the centralized framework, a disadvantage avoided by the method of Claim 1, as described above.

The Office Action cites Elgamal's col. 4, lines 3-9 as allegedly disclosing the limitation of "wherein said customized implementation is invocable by the application without further interaction with the framework." Applicants respectfully disagree. The cited text does not refer to applications 101-103 **invoking** any functionality provided by any customized implementation constructed and provided by the framework. Instead, this text summarizes an embodiment further described at col. 9, lines 29-62, with reference to Figures 5 and 6.

This text refers to a cryptographic policy control module 605 **verifying** a cryptographic **policy file** 606 **prior to** applications 101-103 invoking any cryptographic functionality. The **verification** of a **policy file** is not the same as an **invocation** of a **customized implementation**. At the time that policy file 606 is verified (in steps 502-505), cryptographic applications 602-604 have not yet been configured or "customized" (in step 507). The text at col. 4, lines 3-9 does not alter the fact that, after the verification process, every time the application wishes to request an operation or service, the application must go through a centralized framework. Thus, in col. 4, lines 3-9, Elgamal discloses something very different than the limitation of "wherein said customized implementation is invocable by the application without further interaction with the

framework.” For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Elgamal does not anticipate Claim 1.

Claim 22 is a device claim analogous to the method of Claim 1. Claim 43 is a computer-readable medium claim analogous to the method of Claim 1. Applicants submit that Claims 22 and 43 are not anticipated by Elgamal for at least the reasons given above in connection with Claim 1.

CLAIMS 17-21, 38-42, AND 59-63

The Office Action rejected Claims 17-21, 38-42, and 59-63 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Elgamal in view of Schell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,933,503). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 17, 38, and 59 depend from Claims 1, 22, and 43, respectively. Therefore, Claims 17, 38, and 59 contain the limitations of Claims 1, 22, and 43, respectfully.

ELGAMAL AND SCHELL

As explained above, Elgamal does not disclose or suggest the limitation “wherein said customized implementation is invocable by the application without further interaction with the framework.” Thus, Claims 17, 38, and 59 are patentable over Elgamal, taken individually.

Schell also neither discloses nor suggests the limitation “wherein said customized implementation is invocable by the application without further interaction with the framework.” Indeed, the Office Action relies only upon Elgamal to disclose this limitation. The Office Action does not even allege that Schell discloses or suggests this limitation. Thus, Claims 17, 38, and 59 are patentable over Schell, taken individually.

Even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to combine Elgamal and Schell, the combination of Elgamal and Schell still fails to teach or suggest the limitation “wherein said customized implementation is invocable by the application without further interaction with the framework” as contained in Claims 17, 38, and 59. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 17, 38, and 59 are patentable over Elgamal and Schell.

REMAINING DEPENDENT CLAIMS

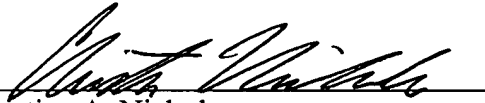
The pending claims not discussed so far are dependent claims that depend on an independent claim that is discussed above. Because each of the dependent claims include the limitations of claims upon which they depend, the dependent claims are patentable for at least those reasons the claims upon which the dependent claims depend are patentable. Removal of the rejections with respect to the dependent claims and allowance of the dependent claims is respectfully requested. In addition, the dependent claims introduce additional limitations that independently render them patentable. Due to the fundamental difference already identified, a separate discussion of those limitations is not included at this time.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentable over the art of record, including the art cited but not applied. Accordingly, allowance of all claims is hereby respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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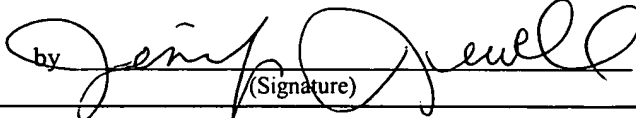

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